

### Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellows 2008 Winter Biographical Sketches





**Sage C. Arbor** (Winter 2008, PGA/COSEPUP) earned his PhD in biochemistry from Washington University in St. Louis in 2008. His thesis work involved computationally designing and synthetically producing rigid scaffolds to act as therapeutics. Sage has always been interested in the fields he believes are central to life. This passion has led him to complete four summer internships in nanotechnology research at NIST, earn a BS in both biology and chemistry from Duke University, engage in protein pharmaceutical chemistry in graduate school, and drove him to public policy. During his thesis work designing drugs to combat HIV, Sage was awed by the greater speed and cost effectiveness that public policy and education could have on reducing the global impact of HIV/AIDS. Sage has designed, and delivered, an hour-long climate change PowerPoint lecture for high schools in an effort to continue educating local residents and neighbors on the topic. After graduating Sage worked

at Pfizer as a systems biologist analyzing genomic data in an effort to elucidate novel targets as well as increase the success rate of compound go through clinical trials. After moving to Des Moines, IA and taking a position as a technical manager at Eurofins Scientific in a vitamin testing lab, Sage went to work at Pioneer Hi-Bred developing LIMS systems and database architecture to help in genotyping crops. Currently Sage is an assistant professor of biochemistry at Marian University's medical school. His research will look at protein misfolding, epigenetics, mining data sets, and drug design. (Updated 1/2012)



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Jessica Buono (Winter 2008, PGA/CWSEM and NAE/NAEPO) is a research associate in health economics and outcomes research at Forest Research Institute. Prior to this, she was a global outcomes research fellow at Merck & Co., Inc. During her time as a Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow, she had the opportunity to conduct health policy research for the National Academy of Engineering Program Office and the Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine. Following this, she continued her work at the National Academies with the Board on the Health of Select Populations in the Institute of Medicine and the Policy and Global Affairs Division of the National Academy of Sciences before beginning her work in pharmaceutical research. She received her B.S. in behavioral neuroscience from Lehigh University and her MPH in epidemiology from the George Washington University. (Updated 10/2011)



**Sarah R. Carter** (Winter 2008, STEP & CHR/PGA) is the policy analyst at the J. Craig Venter Institute, a leading genomics and synthetic biology institute, tasked with exploring and understanding the policy, ethical, and societal implications of the science. Previously, she was a policy analyst at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) where she supported the U.S. Global Change Research Program and worked more broadly on climate-related issues. Sarah was a AAAS Fellow with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) before being detailed to OSTP, where she worked on a variety of topics including scientific integrity and climate change as it relates to human health. As a Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow, she was placed with the Board on Science, Technology and Economic Policy where she contributed to a project to develop best practices in the commercialization of university inventions. While at the Academies, she also worked

with the Committee on Human Rights to support the Israeli-Palestinian Scientific Organization. In 2006, Sarah worked on the Jack Carter for U.S. Senate campaign in Nevada as the Director of Online Communications. She earned her PhD in neuroscience at the University of California-San Francisco in 2007 and her bachelor's degree from Duke University in 2000. (Updated 10/2011)



**Christina Chaivorapol** (Winter 2008, IOM/BGH) Christina Chaivorapol (Winter 2008, IOM/BGH) is currently working as a computational biologist at Genentech to discover biomarkers in auto-immune diseases. She completed her PhD in biological and medical informatics at the University of California, San Francisco. Her doctoral research examined the regulation of gene expression at the genome-wide level in mouse and human embryonic stem cells by combining the fields of computational and molecular biology. Christina's graduate studies were supported by a pre-doctoral fellowship from the National Science Foundation. She holds a BS in microbiology and molecular genetics from the University of California, Los Angeles. Christina greatly enjoyed her Fellowship at the Academies and will use her experiences in science policy for the rest of her career. In the long term, she plans to pursue a career in scientific research and eventually transition to non-profit work. In her free

time, Christina enjoys cooking, trying out the numerous restaurants in San Francisco, working as a volunteer to bring sustainable, local agriculture to the Bay Area, swimming, scuba diving, and practicing Ashtanga yoga. (Updated 10/2011)



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**Tooba A. Cheema** (Winter 2008, PGA/GUIRR) is currently a project team leader/senior scientist at a biotech startup in Boston called Unum Therapeutics that engineers T-cells and harnesses the immune system to target tumor cells. Tooba received a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Michigan, funded by NIH/NINDS. Her postdoctoral research at Massachusetts General Hospital explored the tumor microenviroment of glioma stem cells and oncolytic viral therapy. Tooba's postdoctoral work was supported by the American Brain Tumor Association Fellowship. She holds a B.S. in biochemistry from Tufts University. Tooba greatly enjoyed her fellowship with UIDP at the Academies and will continue to utilize her experiences in science policy to advance therapies and scientific collaborations.(Updated 2/2016)



**Brad Cohn** (Winter 2008, IOM/HSP) is currently a board certified anesthesiologist, critical care medicine physician and Director of Perioperative Medicine at Kaiser Permanente East Bay Medical Centers in Northern California. He completed his medical degree, internship, anesthesia residency, chief residency and critical care medicine fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco. While at UCSF, Brad founded the team that created MediBabble, a free, comprehensive, contemporaneous medical translation tool to allow for patient-provider communication when live-interpreter services were not available. This resource is still in use by health care providers in the U.S. and abroad. He completed his undergraduate training at the University of California, Irvine with a B.S. in neurobiology. Brad has volunteered as a consultant in the Office of HIV/AIDS at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Bangkok, Thailand, and has volunteered as a clinician with

Operation Rainbow in Honduras and Haiti, the Himalayan Health Exchange expedition in northern India, and Child Family Health International in Ecuador and South Africa. Brad is exceptionally proud of his association with the National Academies and counts his experiences as a Mirzayan Fellow among the most influential factors guiding his career at the interface of policy, service and medicine. (Updated 2/2016)



**Clark Cully** (Winter 2008, PGA/CISAC) is a Presidential Management Fellow with the Office the Secretary of Defense, currently assigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee. He recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan with ISAF headquarters, and has also performed rotations the Office of the Director for Defense Research & Engineering and the Office of Nuclear & Missile Defense Policy. Clark has also been a Nonproliferation Fellow at the Department of Energy and a Nuclear Scholar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. While at the National Academy of Sciences, he supported the Committee on International Security and Arms Control on the DoD's Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. Clark has a Ph.D. in particle physics from the University of Michigan for research conducted at Fermi National Accelerator Lab, and holds bachelor's degrees in physics and math from Calvin College. He and his wife Martina enjoy exploring the city's museums and activities, volunteering, and involvement in their local church. (Updated 10/2011)



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Ana M. Ferreras (Winter 2008, NAE/CASEE) is a senior program officer for the Board on International Scientific Organizations (BISO) at The National Academies, supporting the U.S. National Committees for mathematics, mathematics instruction, crystallography, and physics. BISO focuses on science policy and science diplomacy, and Ana has a special interest on K-12 STEM education and capacity building in the developing world. Dr. Ferreras holds a PhD in industrial engineering from the University of Central Florida (UCF). Her doctoral research focused on developing a company success index model to assess and predict organizational performance based on critical success factors such as profit, productivity, efficiency, quality, employee morale, safety and ergonomics. She also holds a master's in engineering management from the Florida Institute of Technology and a bachelor's in electrical engineering from UCF. (Updated 10/2011)



Jamila R. Greene (Winter 2008, PGA/COSEPUP) is currently working towards her PhD in physical chemistry at Purdue University. Her dissertation focuses on the photodissociation of brominated molecules in the upper atmosphere. She completed her MS at Purdue University and BS at Hampton University. Jamila developed an interest in a career dedicated to chemistry, environmental research, and global affairs as an undergraduate student when she studied at the University of Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania. She believes The Mirzayan Fellowship has given her the opportunity to learn more about the development and promotion of sound policies related to the advancement of STEM research and education. She hopes her involvement on the Committee on Science Engineering and Public Policy (COSEPUP) extended her knowledge of policy that develops and supports America's diverse talent. Jamila has held leadership roles in the chemistry community as a member of the

American Chemical Society's Younger Chemists Committee. Also, she served as the National Student Representative for the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. In her spare time, Jamila enjoys practicing yoga, gourmet cooking, singing, and salsa dancing. (Updated 4/2009)



**Kathrin Humphrey** (Winter 2008, PGA/DSC) is a program officer with the Office of Foreign Secretaries at the National Academies, working primarily on international scientific cooperation. She joined the Academies as a Mirzayan Fellow with the Board on Development, Security and Cooperation and has since worked on a variety of activities ranging from biosecurity and responsible research conduct to developing organization-wide communication materials. Kathrin was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to focus on socioeconomic development during her graduate studies in international affairs and development at the New School University, where she graduated in May 2008. Prior to this, Kathrin worked as a rural development volunteer in Nepal and as an intern in NGO management in India. She lived in rural Mali and later worked for the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bamako on democracy and governance issues. Born in Berlin, she earned her bachelor's in

international business from the University of Applied Sciences in Dresden, Germany. (Updated 10/2011)



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**Pushkar Joshi** (Winter 2008, PGA/DSC) graduated from the University of Rochester with a PhD in neuroscience in August 2007. During his doctoral research, Pushkar investigated the genetic basis of neocortical arealization, a process that creates different areas in the neocortex (a brain structure) that regulate movement, sensory perception and cognition. Pushkar completed a part of his undergraduate studies in Bombay, India, then transferred and received his undergraduate degree in neuroscience from Rutgers University. Having grown up and studied in countries such as India, Afghanistan, and the U.S., Pushkar is interested in how international affairs affect the progress of science and technology. He is looking forward to his fellowship with the CSCANS where he will research the effects of permeable national borders in a globalized world on America's national security and its scientific enterprise. Pushkar hoped that his Mirzayan Fellowship would give him a formal exposure to a policy career that he might pursue after post-doctoral research. In his

free time, Pushkar enjoys playing squash, traveling, and reading. (Updated 9/2009)



**Elizabeth Keller** (Winter 2008, PGA/DSC) is currently a data scientist/modeler at the New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS). Her research includes modeling the impacts of climate change in New Zealand, monitoring carbon dioxide emissions, and other environmental science applications. Her Mirzayan Fellowship at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine with the Board on Development, Security and Cooperation focused on international scientific cooperation and Israeli-Palestinian relations. After her Fellowship, she worked as a policy adviser at the New Zealand Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, where she helped to facilitate scientific cooperation between New Zealand and other countries. She holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.(Updated 4/2016)



**Christine Micheel** (Winter 2008, IOM/NCPF)is focused on creating content and tools that help oncology health care professionals improve the lives of cancer patients and their families. Dr. Micheel joined the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center in December 2011; she is managing editor for <u>MyCancerGenome.org</u> and is a research assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, Division on Hematology/Oncology. My Cancer Genome is an award-winning online tool that gives up-to-date information on genomic changes in cancer and their clinical implications. Prior to moving to Nashville, Dr. Micheel spent four years at the Institute of Medicine (IOM), beginning in January 2008 as a Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellow in the National Cancer Policy Forum (NCPF) and Board on Health Care Services. She was the study director for the studies *Review of Omics-Based Tests for Predicting Patient Outcomes in Clinical Trials* and Evaluation of Biomarkers and

Surrogate Endpoints in Chronic Disease. She was a workshop rapporteur on NCPF workshop summaries Nanotechnology and Oncology, Multi-Site Clinical Trials and NCI Cooperative Groups, and Implementing Colorectal Cancer Screening. Prior to joining the IOM, Dr. Micheel completed a postdoctoral position at the IBM Almaden Research Center in San Jose, Calif., where she studied interactions between biomolecules, such as DNA and antibodies, and nanomaterials. She completed her PhD in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2005, under the direction of Paul Alivisatos and with the support of a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Predoctoral Fellowship. Her research was focused at the boundary between nanoscience and biophysics, as demonstrated in 15 publications and 2 patents. She enjoys salsa dancing, sewing, hiking, exploring cities, and her cat Luna.(Updated 2/2016)



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**Dorothy Miller** (Winter 2008, DEPS/BEES) serves as interim deputy vice president for research and graduate studies and director of innovation impact for the University of California, Office of the President. In these roles she focuses on understanding the dynamic interface between scientific research and the myriad scientific, social and economic impacts that result from the UC's research and innovation activities. She is active in identifying and fostering new models for industry-academic partnerships to better link emerging industry needs with the University of California's premiere research talent. Prior to joining the University of California, Dr. Miller was a scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where she supported several inter- and intra-agency partnerships. Previously, Dr. Miller was with the National Academy of Science, National Research Council. Dr. Miller completed her PhD in physical chemistry at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 2010, Dr. Miller added her most rewarding title: Mom. (Updated 2/2016)



**Nilah Monnier** (Winter 2008, DELS/BLS) is currently a graduate student in the biophysics program at Harvard University, where she also earned her B.A. in biochemistry.



**Deirdre Parsons** (Winter 2008, PGA/CSTL) was a Mirzayan Fellow at the with the Committee on Science, Technology, and Law, where she explored issues surrounding the regulation of synthetic biology and genetic testing. Prior to the Fellowship, she received her MS in molecular genetics and microbiology from Duke University. Her thesis focused on the development of a genomic technology used for conducting personalized medicine and diagnostic research. Immediately following the Fellowship, she worked as an analyst for Accenture, LLP, in the Pharmaceutical Research & Development division, but she found that her experiences as a Fellow had broadened her scope of interest to the incentives that drive medical technologies from the bench to the bedside. She therefore enrolled (and is currently in) a concurrent MPP/MPH program in health policy & management at the University of California, Berkeley. She was nominated for the best policy analysis for her master's thesis, which analyzed various policy levers to reduce the primary cesarean rate of California's

Medicaid and commercially insured populations. Between 2009 and 2011, she worked for the Berkeley Center for Health Technology, investigating the impact of health benefit design on the utilization of high-cost biopharmaceuticals, medical devices and medical procedures. She also interned at Genentech USA during the summers of 2010 and 2011, in the company's Managed Care & Customer Operations division and Forecasting & Business Analytics group, respectively. She holds an AB from Dartmouth College in 2004 with a major in genetics, cell & developmental biology and a minor in linguistics. (Updated 10/2011)



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environmental policy to additional human impacts on the environment. At the National Academy of Engineering, Shelby examined the ethics of innovative developments in geoengineering, synthetic biology, and brain implants. Following her fellowship, Shelby consulted on issues related to renewable energy technologies, painted fine art in Santa Fe, N.M, and worked several grape harvests in California wine country. Shelby decided to focus on wine and in



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2012 founded Perkins Harter, a small winery focused on the production of high quality Old Vine Zinfandel from the Dry Creek Valley of California (<u>www.perkinsharter.com</u>). Shelby is also a current student with the Institute of Masters of Wine based in London and is a member of The Explorers Club. (Updated 2/2016)





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mixtures of chemicals in drinking water. As a Mirzayan Fellow, Sarah's work on the Water Science and Technology Board's global drinking-water project integrated her professional and academic experiences in water science and policy analysis, and broadened her knowledge of developing-world infrastructure issues. Her time with the Committee on Science, Technology and Law similarly enriched her perspective on the role of risk science in policy and law. (Updated 10/2011)



**Sunbin Sylvie Song** (Winter 2008, PGA/CSTL) is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health, studying transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and its application to rehabilitation in stroke with Dr. Leonardo Cohen. Previously, she was a Mirzayan Fellow with the Committee on Science, Technology and Law with Dr. Anne-Marie Mazza. She received her PhD in neuroscience from Georgetown University and a BS in biology from MIT. (Updated 3/2010)



Anthon Sonnenberg (Winter 2008, TRB/TRB Studies) is currently working towards a PhD in the Transportation Systems program at the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His doctoral research focuses on the quantification of transportation carbon emissions in the U.S. and strategies to reduce them. He hopes that the policy fellowship will provide exposure to the workings of the political process as they relate to innovation, energy, climate, and transportation policy. It will also help establish a firm analysis foundation for the types of problems he would like to examine during his career. Originally from the Netherlands, he holds a BS in civil engineering and an MSc in philosophy of science, technology and society. He initially attended Georgia Tech as an exchange student at the School of Public Policy where he conducted a technology assessment of the infrastructure requirements associated with a large-scale conversion to a hydrogen economy. His research especially focused on how technological developments are influenced by different social and institutional factors. Anthon is an entrepreneur and world

traveler. At the moment he owns a real estate consulting firm and he has been traveling, working and living all over the world. In his spare time, he enjoys sports, outdoor activities, going out with friends, and sipping a glass of wine. (Updated 4/2009)



**Rafi Soulé** (Winter 2008, NAE/CASEE) is currently a PhD candidate in Information Studies at the University of Maryland. Her research focuses on developing a system analysis plan on how radio frequency identification (RFID) will help improve the nation's security system. This technology allows sensitive information, such as the biometric data that is stored on the "new card" with an RFID chip, to be securely read and tamper-proof stored. She collaborates in developing a simulation model to compare the average time between the new system and the old one, for each person (includes both service time and waiting time). Rafi obtained her M.S. in project management/systems engineering from George Washington University, and a BS in finance from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. She received the certification in "Construction Quality Management for Contractors" from the U.S. Navy Corps of Engineering in February 2009. Currently working as a contractor for the Department of Defense/Military Health System Cyberinfrastructure Services (MCiS), within the Customer Relationship

Management Directorate. Previously to that, she was a Project Planner/Subcontract Manager at Palladian Partners Inc., where she practiced her Project Management skills. She also worked with PAE, a Lockheed- Martin company,



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as an Audit Systems Analyst. Her expertise lies in the conceptual development of several projects (such as construction, demobilization, and logistical & training. (Updated 2/2011)



**Priya Sreedharan** (Winter 2008, PGA/STS) is a senior consultant with E3, a forward-looking energy firm in San Francisco that focuses on clean energy technology issues, as a senior consultant. Her projects span project, California, federal and Indian policy levels and draw from her mechanical, air quality engineering and policy backgrounds. During her D.C. tenure, she was a 2008-2010 AAAS Fellow with working on clean energy analysis and policies (efficiency, renewables, smart grid) with the Climate Protection Partnerships Division, at the Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to that, Priya was a Mirzayan Fellow at the National Academies where she worked on biofuel sustainability initiatives. She has a PhD in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, in which she developed statistical (Bayesian) algorithms to model the uncertainties of airborne contaminant releases and incorporated these into real-time sensor systems. Priya completed her MS in mechanical engineering also at Berkeley, working on thermal system diagnostics. During her MS and

PhD she collaborated with the Energy and Environmental Technologies Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. She holds a BS in environmental engineering from the University of Windsor, Canada. Priya has professional experience in the environmental and energy fields that span the design & analysis of energy efficient mechanical systems for data centers and commercial buildings, sustainable design methods, industrial air quality engineering & consulting, and power sector reform policy in India. In her spare time, she performs classical Indian dance, hikes & volunteers. (Updated 10/2011)



**Michael Tomlinson** (Winter 2008, NAE/CASEE) graduated with a PhD in chemical and biomolecular engineering from North Carolina State University in 2005. His postgraduate research focused on modifying surfaces with end-tethered macromolecules, also known as polymer brushes. During this time, he served on the leadership committee for the Self Knowledge Symposium, a non-profit student organization focused on living authentically. After graduation, he accepted an offer to join the PolyFilm Network (an EU-funded Marie Curie Research Training Network) and was based at The University of Sheffield in England. Using neutron reflectometry, he studied the interface of reversibly adhesive polyelectrolyte surfaces. Working in Europe enabled him to meet Network colleagues from around the world, with whom he has spent his leisure time hiking through historical and natural sites. During his Winter 2008 Mirzayan Fellowship, he worked with CASEE to analyze current teaching practices among engineering faculty. His work with CASEE also allowed

him to attend the 2008 Frontiers in Education Conference where he presented his findings. Michael's passions include teaching, learning, and traveling. He is currently pursuing his passion for teaching and learning as a science teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools. (Updated 10/2011)



**Ricardo Verdugo Salgado** (Winter 2008, PGA/GUIRR) has completed his PhD degree in genetics at the University of California, Davis. Originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, he obtained his DVM degree from the Universidad de Chile, in Santiago, Chile. A Fulbright fellowship allowed him to pursue a doctoral degree in the U.S. His research involves the identification of novel genes affecting complex traits in animal models. In particular, for his dissertation he used high-throughput technologies for the identification of parental origin of small segments of chromosomes in mice from large crosses. Since paternal and maternal strains are genetically different for obesity predisposition, this technique allowed the identification of small segments of DNA harboring a pair of candidate genes that are associated with obesity in mice. During his time in the US, he worked for creating a bridge between communities here and people in need back in Latin America. He founded two non-profit organizations in Davis that work to raise funds to support projects for needy children in

Chile and four other Latin American countries. Ricardo saw his Fellowship at the National Academies as an



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opportunity to explore how scientists can get involved in the development of policies that can produce beneficial impacts in society: specifically, to address inequality. (Updated 9/2009)



**Desiderio** (Winter 2008, DBASSE/CPOP) is currently a Senior Manager for Scientific Affairs in the Department of Government Relations, Practice, and Scientific Affairs at the American Society of Hematology in Washington, D.C. In



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her current position, she provides scientific and technical expertise for legislative and regulatory issues, scientific programs, and policy development activities for the Society. In 2008, Ulyana completed the Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellowship at the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Population, where she was involved in a project on collecting, storing and protecting biological samples and data. Ulyana holds a PhD in biochemistry from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she studied the molecular mechanisms of mammalian fertilization. (Updated 9/2012)



**Greta Zornes** (Winter 2008, NAE/DEW) completed her PhD in environmental health sciences at Tulane University. Her doctoral research focused on understanding the status and potential of water reuse in Hyderabad and Delhi, India. Greta received her MS in environmental engineering from Manhattan College in 2000, where her research focused on biofilm formation in drinking water systems. Her undergraduate studies were completed in Environmental Science at the University of Oklahoma, and included a year at the University of Dundee, Scotland. Greta has completed a variety of internships including working with the World Health Organization in India and with the Socio-Economic Union in Russia. Greta is currently with CH2M HILL and is the consulting leader for New South Wales (NSW), Australia. She is also the regional technology leader for water reuse (ANZ) and the regional practice leader for water (international). In Australia, she has worked on a variety of water reuse studies and designs for treating wastewaters for industrial use and for indirect potable

reuse. She has also been involved in the commissioning of the Gippsland Water Factory. As consulting leader, Greta is responsible for the success of the business in NSW as well as maintaining and expanding her own technical capabilities. Greta is active in the Australian Water Association, International Water Association, and Engineers Without Borders. During her Mirzayan Fellowship, Greta worked with the Diversity in the Engineering Workforce (DEW) program supporting the Engineer Girl and Engineer Your Life projects. (Updated 3/2010)